

  
TRANSMISSION

# Bellbird

Press kit





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# Bellbird

A story of loss, love and hope. Told with great heart and warm humour, this film shines a light on the plight of a small rural community where the people are the heroes. And the cows...

## ONE LINER

Set over four seasons on a humble Northland dairy farm, Bellbird is the story of a dairy farmer struggling to cope with the sudden death of his beloved wife, and the gradual bond he builds with his gentle only son and the local community.

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## SHORT SYNOPSIS

Set over four seasons on a humble Northland dairy farm, Bellbird is the story of a dairy farmer struggling to cope with the sudden death of his beloved wife, and the gradual bond he builds with his gentle only son and the local community.

Ross is a man of few words and when his wife Beth dies, so does his spirit. His son Bruce is reluctant to change his own life to help run the farm but can see his father struggling, both physically and emotionally. Without Beth as a buffer, the distance in their relationship is exacerbated. The presence of local boy Marley proves useful, as does the unsolicited support from Bruce's boss at the dump, Connie, and from Clem, the local vet.

It's been almost a year since Beth's death when things unexpectedly come to a head and Ross has to finally connect with his own grief and let go.

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## LONG SYNOPSIS

Set in the tiny rural community of Maungakaramea, Northland, Bellbird is the story of a man facing the value of everything he has lived for.

Ross is a man of few words, and when his wife Beth suddenly dies, so does his spirit. His son Bruce is reluctant to change his own life to help run the farm but can see his father struggling, both physically and emotionally.

When young Marley keeps turning up to help Ross with the daily milking, he ignores Ross's sullen moods. Beth was Marley's teacher and friend, so he is quietly determined to stick around and help out. Local Connie is also in for the long haul and they come together with others in the community to share the load, but Ross is reluctant to accept their help.

Over the course of four seasons Ross struggles with the ongoing pain of his loss, and the responsibility of the farm weighs heavily on him. His determination to prepare Bruce to take over farm and his inability to grieve for Beth gradually builds.

It's been almost a year since Beth's death when things unexpectedly come to a head and Ross has to finally connect with his own grief and let go. He realises he has the support he needs to continue and that his son Bruce needs to find his own place in the world. Ross has the strength to carry on. He'll be okay.

Bellbird is a story of loss, love and hope. Told with great heart and warm humour, this film shines a light on the plight of a small rural community where the people are the heroes. And the cows...



## KEY CAST AND CREW

**Writer/Director** Hamish Bennett

**Produced by** Orlando Stewart & Catherine Fitzgerald

**Starring** Marshall Napier (Ross)  
Annie Whittle (Beth)  
Cohen Holloway (Bruce)  
Rachel House (Connie)  
Stephen Tamarapa (Clem)  
Kahukura Retimana (Marley)

**Cinematographer** Grant McKinnon

**Editor** Jason Pengelly

**Composer** Karl Steven

**Production Designer** Shayne Radford

**Art Director** Lisa Dunn

**Costume Designer** Emily Carter

**Make Up Design** Katie Rogers

# FACT SHEET

**Production Company** Herringbone Productions

**In Association with** New Zealand Film Commission,  
Images & Sound, Stella Maris Production,  
Blueskin Films

**Festival and Awards** Sydney International Film Festival  
(In Competition), NZ International Film Festival

**Technical** Colour; 2.35:1  
Digital 5.1

**Location** Shot in Maungakaramea,  
Northland New Zealand

**Australian/New Zealand Distributor** Transmission Films

**New Zealand Publicity** Angela Radford Publicity

**International Sales Agent** TBC

**NZ Rating** M TBC

**Facebook** /www.facebook.com/bellbirdfilm/



## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



### HAMISH BENNETT

**WRITER AND DIRECTOR**

Hamish Bennett is a New Zealand film-maker of Māori descent (Ngāti Whakaue, Patuharakeke, Kati Waewae) and a fulltime school teacher.

His first short film, *The Dump*, won Best Short Script at 2012's NZ Writers Guild Awards. His second short, *Ross & Beth*, won numerous awards, including the Jury and Audience prizes at the 2014 New Zealand International Film Festival.

*Bellbird* is Hamish's first feature film, and is set in the small rural Northland community where he grew up.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The original idea for Bellbird grew out of the experiences I had being raised in the small rural Northland community of Tauraroa. Although both my parents were teachers, we were surrounded by farming families. The inspiration for the characters of Ross and Beth were our neighbours across the road. They were great people – humble, funny, hard-working, gruff, stuck in their ways - all fairly typical traits of many older rural couples.

You don't see many outward displays of affection or emotion with these people, but this can't be mistaken for not caring. It's very much the opposite. The love, the loyalty, the reliance - it can all be found in the little moments, buried under the layers of cheeky banter and cow shit. You know they are devoted to one another. And you also know that if one of them weren't there, the other would be completely lost. In many ways this film is an ode to these people and to this way of life.

There was never any question that we'd head back up north to make our film. The environment was a big factor. Dairy farms in Northland aren't like farms in other parts of the country. They're not the types of landscapes you'll see on Mainland Cheese ads. They're tucked away off barely used gravel side roads. Fences are broken, gorse and macrocarpa and totara dot the landscape, old herringbone milking sheds are still the norm. The land has a unique, rough beauty, and the characters in the film are both a reflection and a product of this world.

Most importantly though, filming in Maungakaramea, just 10km up the road from where I grew up and on a dairy farm owned by old family friends, gave us the opportunity to make a film with the very people who inspired the story in the first place. In every aspect of production, the local community was involved. Farmers built fences for cemeteries. Locals turned up to play mourners and choir members. My mum got to play the ukulele and sing with Annie Whittle. Throughout the process, friends and whanau had vital parts to play in bringing our story to life, and giving it a heart. It was a very special experience, and one that I'll always be grateful for.

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*Hutia te rito ō te harakeke, kei hea te kōmako e kō?*

*Kī mai ki ahau - he aha te mea nui o te ao?*

*Māku e kī atu - he tangata, he tangata, he tangata.*

*If you pluck out the heart of the flax bush, where will the bellbird sing?*

*Ask me - what is the most important thing in the world?*

*And I will reply - it is people, it is people, it is people.*

---





## ORLANDO STEWART

### PRODUCER

Orlando Stewart is an award-winning producer based in Auckland, New Zealand. He's produced short films, television and feature length documentaries. Bellbird is his first dramatic feature. He's been working with director Hamish Bennett since 2011 and has produced his three shorts prior to Bellbird. He is the owner of Stella Maris Productions.

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### DESCRIBING BELLBIRD

Bellbird feels like an important film for the world right now. The themes of healing, hope and community that underpin the film are incredibly valuable. It's a story that speaks from the heart and hangs on real human connection. It's also a culmination of Hamish's two previous shorts, The Dump and Ross & Beth - films that celebrate the community Hamish was raised in and the people he grew up around. The production of these short films were very much family affairs – meals cooked by our spouses, sleeping in schools and whanau chipping in to help get the film made.

It's an attitude we tried to hold onto as we embarked on a move into the feature film-making, albeit with a slightly more professional attitude.

Enter Catherine Fitzgerald, who came on board as a producer after showing great support in the development process. Her passion, editorial insights and film-making experience were all assets that have been invaluable.

On a personal level, the movie feels like a culmination to a journey that began six years ago over a meal of mussels where I was asked by Hamish to play a role in his first short film The Dump.

I ended up acting and producing the short, and although I have yet to be asked to appear on screen again, it was the start of a rewarding creative relationship. Lot's of verbal sparring, a commitment to staying true to the kaupapa of those first films and of really trying to enjoy every moment of the film-making process.

Spending eight months planning and shooting on a small family run dairy farm was both challenging and rewarding. The love and care the Deeming family shows for their animals and land is touching and inspiring. The farm has been in the family for over a century and every cow has a carefully traced genealogy, including their own names. Our D.O.P Grant even got to name a calf, Norman Berry, the daughter of Blue Berry. The animal's ancestry was celebrated by the family as was the land they saw themselves as custodians of. The movie speaks to this relationship we have with the land, but also to the deep connections that we have to the people we share our lives with. It is a story of how small communities and friendships can help us through some of the most difficult times in our lives.



## CATHERINE FITZGERALD

### PRODUCER

Producer and owner of Blueskin Films, Catherine is an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit for services to film, a Member of the Asia Pacific Screen Academy and has received "South Pacific Pictures Award For Achievement In Film 2014" (WIFT NZ Awards) and SPADA NZ Independent Producer Of The Year Award 2011, among other prizes and honours.

She also Chairs the NZ Film Festival Trust, has consulted for the Berlinale NATIVe, and served on the Berlinale Generation Jury. She also serves on the SPADA, WIFTNZ and Playmarket Boards, and the Governance Group for the review of tertiary qualifications.

Catherine's credits include *Two Cars, One Night* (2004), *Rain of the Children* (2008) and *The Orator* (2011). *One Thousand Ropes* (2017)

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### IN HER OWN WORDS

*Bellbird* has been a joy to work on and we are now excited to share Hamish and Orlando's first feature with audiences in New Zealand and around the world. I became aware of Hamish and Orlando well before their first shorts, but the shorts convinced me of the talent in the team. Hamish as a writer and director finds warmth and humour in the most keenly observed but ordinary of worlds, so ordinary they are extraordinary.

The short films and now *Bellbird*, capture what New Zealanders pride themselves on, but in reality can't always deliver in the modern world: a community which is greater than any individual, but nevertheless respects the individuals within it. New Zealanders may be fiercely strong and independent, the men of few words, the women all too articulate but ultimately, they care for one another regardless of race or creed.

I loved the chance to settle into the elemental pace of the dairy farm over the different seasons of the year and more than anything loved the cows. They too seem to look after each other despite their wildly different personalities. It is not often a dramatic feature film actually immerses itself in the world, lives and rhythms of its characters in order to make it authentic but for this film the whole community participated, on screen and off. We stayed in their school, their homes, ate in the sports club with a welcome which is ever memorable.

I hope the film gives everyone who sees it a chance to leave their world and live in the country with all that means. It's not easy, but it is disappearing.

# GRANT MCKINNON

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Grant is an award-winning cinematographer who has worked with Hamish on two short films. His love for the moving image is matched only by his love of cows. Grant has worked in a milking shed and his ability to expose the rough beauty in the land, and in rural New Zealanders, lends Bellbird a stoic lyricism. Like many on the team, Grant had previous experience working on farms in his youth. He and his team of miscreants in the camera department provided a lot of levity on set with their banter. They also managed to fit a bit of milking in around the filming.

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# SHAYNE RADFORD

**PRODUCTION DESIGNER**

Shayne Radford is a legendary art director and production designer, whose credits include Meet the Feebles, Boy, Once Were Warriors, Young Hercules, Desperate Remedies and River Queen. His ability to make something from very little was nothing short of incredible. In a matter of minutes Shayne could create something masterful. The stunning realism of the farm cemetery he and his team created was so realistic that the Deeming family, who own the farm, began to believe it had always been there.

His fireside fables of working with New Zealand film legends were equally impressive, keeping slack jawed newbies amused for hours with his tall tales and incredible true stories of a life creating worlds for some of our most famed directors.

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# JASON PENGELLY

**EDITOR**

Bellbird is Jason's first feature film. He's a veteran of television and has edited all of Hamish's short films. Jason worked for twenty weeks with Hamish, developing and refining the narrative while tending to his much-loved colony of bees.



## ABOUT THE CAST

### **MARSHALL NAPIER AS ROSS**

Marshall Napier is an actor with incredible pedigree. He has appeared in the iconic New Zealand movies *Goodbye Pork Pie*, *Came a Hot Friday*, *The Navigator: A Medieval Odyssey* and *Footrot Flats: The Dogs Tale*.

Marshall left New Zealand and forged a career as a successful theatre, television and film actor. He appeared in *Babe*, *The Water Horse* and in three series of *McLeod's Daughters*, acting with his daughter Jessica. A recent career highlight was acting on Broadway alongside Cate Blanchett in Anton Chekov's *The Present*.

A year later he found himself on a small farm in a far-flung corner of Northland - about as far from Broadway as possible. Over the next nine months Marshall threw himself into becoming Ross, a man of few words who shuts down after the death of his wife. Displaying the pain just below the surface as he struggles to come to terms with his wife's passing and his son Bruce's reluctance to take on the farm, Marshall turns in a subtle and powerful performance.

An idiosyncratic and moving take on a Kiwi archetype that will resonate with audiences, Marshall Napier left no stone unturned in his exploration of Ross, giving him a layered and nuanced presence.

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### **ANNIE WHITTLE AS BETH**

Annie Whittle is an actress and entertainer loved by generations of New Zealanders. Best known for her roles on the *Billy T James Show*, *A Week of It* and opposite Anthony Hopkins in *The World's Fastest Indian*, Annie is an extraordinary entertainer whose career spans stage, screen and recording studios.

Annie has been a presenter on the iconic series *Heartland* and has contributed enormously to both stage and screen.

Annie first played Beth in Hamish's short film *Ross & Beth* - the award winning short that was the genesis for *Bellbird*. Her natural affinity with animals and a deep connection with rural life contributed to an authentic and connected performance. Annie's previous career as a rural veterinary nurse and her love of farm life were real drivers in taking on the role. Between takes she would often be found communing with the cows. If there was an actor who could have been a real-life farmer, it would have been Annie. She brought light and delicacy to the role and was well loved within the Maungakarema community.



### **COHEN HOLLOWAY AS BRUCE**

Cohen Holloway is an actor with tremendous range and an ability to perform both comedy and drama. Perhaps best known for his roles in Taika Waititi's films *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, *Boy & Thor*, Cohen has also shown his ability as a dramatic actor in the television movie *Until Proven Innocent* and in the series *Top of the Lake*.

Cohen initially auditioned to play the role of Clem, the vet. While he would have made a great Clem, it was an unexpected sensitivity that shone through.

In Cohen, we found just the right mix of a gentle misfit with a big heart and an underestimated intelligence. His performance in *Bellbird* is heartfelt, thoughtful and subtle. However, once the cameras were off, the transformation was incredible. For the crew, Cohen undoubtedly provided plenty of off-screen entertainment, his comedic ability and impersonations providing plenty of levity, even when the onscreen action was heading into dark territory.

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### **RACHEL HOUSE AS CONNIE**

Rachel is one of our most celebrated actors, a global presence who has made an enormous contribution to both cinema and stage in New Zealand. Perhaps best known for her roles in *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* and *Boy*, Rachel is an acting powerhouse who, like Cohen, is equally comfortable in both comedy and drama.

In the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours, House was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the performing arts. We were delighted when Rachel joined the team to play a pivotal role in *Bellbird*.

Rachel's performance as Connie allowed her to tap into her own experiences growing up in Kamo, Whangarei. Raised in Northland, Connie was a recognisable character, with Rachel able to draw on her memories of the people she grew up around to produce a powerful performance. Rough, yet tender, Connie is a powerful woman who supports Bruce through his grief and keeps Ross in check.

The depth and intelligence of her portrayal of Connie is testament to her skills as an actor, but also her understanding of the world that *Bellbird* is set in. Hamish had specifically written the role with Rachel in mind, and her portrayal of Connie is nuanced and full of warmth.



### **STEPHEN TAMARAPA AS CLEM**

After a long hiatus from acting Stephen Tamarapa came to our attention after Rachel House suggested he audition for the role of Clem. Her suggestion proved fortuitous, when he auditioned Stephen showed a sharp sense of humour and redefined how Hamish saw Clem.

The onset banter with Cohen was a real treat, but the sensitivity that Stephen was able to inject into the performance was as important as the laughs he managed to illicit.

Stephen currently works for the corrections department in Whanganui, helping prisoners reintegrate into society.

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### **KAHUKURA RETIMANA AS MARLEY**

Kahukura found himself playing the role of Marley after turning up to an audition with his cousin as support. He ended up getting the role after claiming to be a better actor than his cousin.

Like Hamish and Rachel, Kahukura has his roots in Northland and would make his way to set from his home in Whangarei.

A breakout, Kahukura is a real acting discovery. He injects Bellbird with warmth and heart whenever he turns up on screen.

His connection with the other actors, particularly Marshall, transcended his onscreen role and whenever he was on set he brought real joy for cast and crew alike.

His authenticity and emotional openness are there in his performance, and we expect to see a lot more of this young talent in the future.

# FULL CREDITS

**Written & Directed by** Hamish Bennett

**ROSS** Marshall Napier

**BRUCE** Cohen Holloway

**CONNIE** Rachel House

**MARLEY** Kahukura Retimana

**CLEM** Stephen Tamarapa

**Produced by** Orlando Stewart

Catherine Fitzgerald

**Editor** Jason Pengelly

**Director of Photography** Grant McKinnon

**Composer** Karl Steven

**Production Designer** Shayne Radford

**Costume Designer** Emily Carter

**Hair & Make Up Artist** Katie Rogers

**Casting Director** Stu Turner

Financed in association with Images & Sound

Herringbone Productions Ltd

in association with the New Zealand Film Commission presents

*Bellbird*

**CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)**

<b>ROSS</b>	Marshall Napier
<b>BETH</b>	Annie Whittle
<b>MARLEY</b>	Kahukura Retimana
<b>BRUCE</b>	Cohen Holloway
<b>CONNIE</b>	Rachel House
<b>CLEM</b>	Stephen Tamarapa
<b>FUNERAL SINGER</b>	Jeremy K Hill
<b>AW</b>	Aaron Jackson
<b>AW'S GIRLFRIEND</b>	Ainzlee Semenoff
<b>GRAEME</b>	Kip Chapman
<b>FARM CONSULTANT</b>	Simon Ferry
<b>ANA</b>	Bree Peters
<b>KEITH</b>	Shayne Radford
<b>JODY</b>	Angela Radford
<b>COW POO GIRL</b>	Edith Gallichan-Stewart
<b>COW POO BOY</b>	Frank Gallichan-Stewart
<b>CONCERNED MAN</b>	Simon Cauty
<b>REAL ESTATE AGENT</b>	Jason Hodzelmans
<b>MARLEY'S SISTER</b>	Waimarie McQueen
<b>TRAINER/ROSS DOUBLE</b>	Mick Gibson
<b>1st Assistant Director</b>	Emma Hinton Robin Wilson
<b>Production Manager</b>	Kat Stephens
<b>Script Consultant</b>	Emily Anderton
<b>Script Supervisor</b>	Sarah Backhouse-Smith Melissa Lawrence
<b>Acting Coach</b>	Hori Ahipene
<b>Casting Associate</b>	Joe Fisher
<b>Casting Assistant</b>	Jason Hodzelmans Richard Knowles
<b>Stunts</b>	Mark Harris
<b>1st Assistant</b>	Camera Jymi Best
<b>2nd Camera</b>	Craig Wright
<b>B Cam 1st Assistant Camera</b>	Nani Conforte Alex Martin
<b>2nd Camera Operator</b>	Alex Jenkins

<b>Movi Operator</b>	Archer Roelants
<b>Drone Operator</b>	David Flannigan
<b>Data Wrangler</b>	Hemana Mcleod-Bennett
<b>Gaffer</b>	James Young
<b>Grip</b>	Alex Jenkins Matt Thomas
<b>Sound Recordist</b>	Gabriel Muller Ken Saville
<b>Boom Operator</b>	Jo Fraser Andrew Lusk Kaveh Sharifan
<b>Art Director/Standby</b>	Lisa Dunn
<b>Art Department Assistant</b>	Angela Radford
<b>Props/Set Dresser</b>	Pete Shaw
<b>Arborist</b>	Dean Child Levi King
<b>Fencing</b>	John Child Murray Child
<b>Tractor Driver</b>	Michael Danks Ray Lowe
<b>Animal Wrangler / Farm Location</b>	Carla Deeming
<b>On-Set Vet, Animal Advisor</b>	Angus Campbell
<b>Scenic Artist</b>	Simon Pattison
<b>On-Set Graphics</b>	Svet Mateev
<b>Graffiti Artist</b>	Riki Peters
<b>Costume Standby</b>	Jessie Noakes Nat Van Halle Keri Wheeler
<b>Costume Assistant</b>	Sabine Bailey
<b>Make-Up Intern</b>	Jade Woolhouse
<b>2nd Assistant Director</b>	Ant Davies Giles McNeill Ingrid Verbraak
<b>3rd Assistant Director</b>	Tommy Berridge Loren Prendiville Nina Reed
<b>Production Coordinator</b>	Kirsty Beaton
<b>Production Assistant</b>	Jitka Celikovska
<b>Production Runner</b>	Tomasin Fisher-Johnson Mataara Stokes
<b>Unit Manager</b>	Michael Robins Mataara Stokes

<b>Caterer</b>	Barbara Woolhouse Mary-Anne Woolhouse Renee Palamountain
<b>Health and Safety Plan</b>	Mike 'Gibbo' Gibson
<b>Health and Safety Coordinator</b>	Kim Green Solomon Stanley
<b>Chaperone</b>	Mataara Stokes Meg Sydenham
<b>Cast Driver</b>	Lutz Hamm
<b>Stills Photographer</b>	Elspeth Collier Nat Van Halle
<b>Post Production Facility</b>	Images & Sound
<b>Head of Images</b>	Grant Baker
<b>Supervising Sound Editor / ADR</b>	Steve Finnigan
<b>Post Production Supervisor</b>	Paul Klement-Smith
<b>Colourist</b>	Alana Cotton
<b>Online Editors</b>	Andrew Mortimer Tristan Simpson
<b>Rushes Processing &amp; Data Management</b>	Gwendoline Taylor Kieran Shalley Jemma Lee Jonny Duncan Thibault Deprez
<b>Dialogue Editor</b>	Chris Sinclair
<b>Re-Recording Mixer</b>	Tom Miskin
<b>Sound Design</b>	Alan Kidd
<b>Foley Artist</b>	Narelle Ahrens
<b>Foley Recordist</b>	Andrew Thorne
<b>Foley Editor</b>	Brendan Hill

## SONGS

**“Bellbird”** composed by Caoimhe Macfehin

Performed by Caoimhe Macfehin and Annie Whittle and Karl Steven

**“You Are My Sunshine”** – written by Jimmy Davis, Licensed courtesy of peermusic Pty Ltd

Performed by The Maungakaramea Community Choir

**“Happy Birthday to You”** – written by Patty Hill, Mildred J. Hill

Performed by The Maungakaramea Community Choir

**“The Blue Cow’s Dream”** composed and performed by Karl Steven

### **SCORE MUSICIANS**

Ukuleles / Guitars    Nigel Gavin  
Trumpet / Trombone    Tim Stewart  
Tuba / Flugelhorn    Finn Scholes  
Percussion    Tim Stewart  
Button Accordion / Reed Organ    Karl Steven

### **ADDITIONAL AUDIO**

Bird Calls - Les McPherson - [archivebirds.nz](http://archivebirds.nz)  
Audio For Radio with thanks to Radio New Zealand & NZME Radio Sport  
Audio for Television with thanks to Getty Images / TVNZ  
Export Script Fiona Bartlett  
Camera Equipment Supplied by Niche Cameras Ltd  
Lighting Supplied by Volcano Lighting Ltd

### **EXTRAS**

#### **Choir**

Maria Quin, Brent Ihaia Swann, Dennis Deeming, Kevin O'Shea, Jeremy Hill, Tui Bennett,  
Patsy Heperi, Michael Lamb

#### **Mourners**

Avril Child, Barbara Ann Woolhouse, Brent Ihaia Swann, Caron Ratoai, Delwyn Morris,  
Dennis Deeming, Elena Bennett, Grace Bennett, Piata Bennett, Tiki Bennett, Emma Dunlop –  
Bennett, Simon Bennett, Grant Woolhouse, Hannah McCullough, Heather Woolhouse,  
Hunter Cavers, Jade Woolhouse, J K Hill, Jordan Delaney, Judith Gibson, Judith Ellery, Judy Lamb,  
Katelyn Gunson, Kevin O'Shea, Kevin Ross Woolhouse, Leslie Child, Liz Walker, Mark Deeming,  
Michael Lamb, Mike Gibson, Ollie Walker, Patrick Whelan, Patsy Heperi, Rachael Quin,  
Sarah Morris, Scott Walker, Simon Cauty, Siobhán McSweeney, Tui Bennett, Willy Heperi,  
Willie Whyte, Jeremy Hill, Shelley Deeming, Ainzlee Semenoff, Rei-in Semenoff, Patrick Wilson

#### **The Dump**

Tui Bennett, Zita Robinson, Willie Whyte, Willie Heperi, Patricia Heperi, Michael Danks,  
M. J. Lamb, Mary Hackett, Maria Quin, Judy Lamb, Kat Stephens

### **Stock Sales**

Murray Child, Heather Woolhouse, Michael Tor, Helen Charmian Tor, Jackie Harding, Hagan Skelton, Ken Atchison, Emily Merry, Rebecca Merry, Nick Merry, Mack Atchison, Kate Atchison, Marie Gallichan, Frank Gallichan-Stewart, Edith Gallichan-Stewart, Colin Lamb, Rachael Quin, Joe Cleveney, David W S Hodson, Leslie Child, Judy Lamb, Cruize Haenga, Ochieana Haenga, Chantelle Arana, Craig Anderson, Brian Morris, Kim Green, Angela Radford, Shayne Radford, Robin Wilson, Dwayne Broomhall, Annette Akers, Paul Loujevich, Rebecca Marry, Max Woolhouse, G R Woolhouse, Jade Woolhouse, Heather Woolhouse, Angharad Yearbury-Murphy, Maria Quin, Jared Mills, Maria Quin, Alice Rose Weatherall, Diane Kaiser, W Whyte, Judith Ellery, Daryl Wall, Simon Cauty, Michael Lamb, Gavin Lamb, Tamaragh Potter, Helen Tor, Tracy Kelly, Paul Kelly, Shelley Cochrane, Sandra Guest, Grant Woolhouse, Andy White, Avril Jean Child, River Taylor-Moore, Cameron Tor, Patricia Heperi, Willy Heperi, Joe Cleveney, Brent Marinkovich, Kimberly Waugh, Hanna Ashby-Campi, James Merry

### **Filmed on location in Maungakaramea, Northland, Aotearoa**

**Production Accountant** Viv Winter

**Legal Services** Sarah Cull

### **Thanks to the New Zealand Film Commission**

Anabelle Sheehan, Mladen Ivancic, Leanne Saunders, Jasmin McSweeney, Rochelle Cooney and their teams Dave Gibson, Chris Moll, Briar Grace Smith, Christina Andreef, Chloe McLoughlin

### **Special Thanks**

Dan Read, Anni Browning Takahiwai Marae, Paraire & Heidi Pirihi, Brent & Huia Swann, Maungakaramea Primary School, Maungakaramea Sports Club, Mid-Western Rugby Club, Lion Breweries, Burger King, Pak'n'Save, Maungakaramea Stock Sales, Northland Waste, Northland Vets, Ces and his yellow Toyota, Carl Gunson, Manager PGG Wrightson, Bret Simkin & Dwayne Broomhall, Trade Workwear & Safety, Simon Ogston, Shayne Rouse, Rouse Motorcycles, Flowers by Nicole, Whangarei, Habitat for Humanity, Whangarei, Judith Budd, Grey Lynn Community Centre, Maungakaramea Stock Sales, Maika & Jody Bennett, Michael Bennett, Jane Holland, Meg Douglas, Scottie Productions Cushla Dillon, Hamish Gough McFarlane, Mark Chamberlain, Chris Matthews, Richard Payten, Andrew Mackie.

### **Ngā mihi nui to all our whānau who supported us on this journey**

especially Jody, Tai and Leo; Marie, Charlotte, Estelle, Francis and Edith

For the Deemings, the Woolhouses and Bruce & Tui

Arohanui ki a koutou

Moe mai ra

Michael Eldred



STELLA MARIS



**AUSTRALASIAN DISTRIBUTION BY TRANSMISSION FILMS**

**STELLA MARIS PRODUCTIONS**

**BLUESKIN**

**IMAGES & SOUND**

**NZFC/LOTTERIES GRANTS BOARD**

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*There's a bellbird sitting in a tree  
what does she see?  
Could be a spring morning  
or a winter's eve, happily  
She sees the sun rise up  
and she sees it fall  
when night is calling...*

*Theres a bellbird sitting in a tree  
what does she see?  
She sees the autumn come  
as the summer leaves  
fall from her tree  
She sees the sun set low  
and she sees it dawning  
in the morning...*

